

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00190 010949Z

53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01

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R 290810Z MAR 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 874

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 190

KUWAIT PASS DOHA AND MUSCAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, XF

SUBJECT: IRAQ'S GULF POLICY

1. QATAR AMBASSADOR AHMAD ALI MARAFIYAH TOLD ME MARCH 28 THAT, JUDGING FROM RECENT BAHRANI AND KUWAITI DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI, IRAQI POLICY IS GULF STILL AGGRESSIVE, BUT MEETING STRONG RESISTANCE. HE SAID BAHRAIN FOREIGN MINISTER SHEIKH MOHAMMAD BIN MUBAREK AL-KHALIFA HAD DURING HIS MARCH 21-23 VISIT TOLD IRAQIS THAT BAHRAIN WANTED TO COOPERATE WITH IRAQ AS IT DID WITH ALL GULF STATES. MUBAREK HAD SAID THERE WERE THREE CONDITIONS IRAQ SHOULD FULFILL IF IT WANTED CLOSE
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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00190 010949Z

RELATIONS WITH GULF STATES: CESSATION OF ASSISTANCE

TO DHOFAR REBELLION; RESOLUTION OF BORDER CONFLICT
WITH KUWAIT; AND CESSATION OF ANTI-SAUDI PROPAGANDA.

2. FORMIN ABDUL BAQI HAD REPLIED THAT IRAQI SUPPORT
FOR DHOFAR REBELLION WAS TO KEEP IRANIAN INFLUENCE FROM
DOMINATING GULF. ON KUWAIT, ABDUL BAQI HAD SAID BAATH
HAD TRIED TO RESOLVE PROBLEM BY RECOGNIZING KUWAIT IN
1963, BUT THIS DECISION HAD BEEN REJECTED BY IRAQI
PEOPLE WHO CONTINUE TO THINK OF KUWAIT AS PART OF IRAQ.
IRAQ'S DIFFERENCES WITH SAUDI ARABIA ABDUL BAQI SAID
WERE BECAUSE SAUDI ARABIA IS CARRYING OUT OBJECTIVES OF
AMERICAN IMPERIALISM. WHEN ABDUL BAQI CLAIMED IRAQ WAS
STRUGGLING AGAINST AMERICAN IMPERIALISM IN GULF, MUBAREK
HAD ASKED IF RUSSIAN AND CHINESE IMPERIALISM, WHICH IRAQI
POLICIES SEEMED TO AID, WERE ANY BETTER.

3. MARAFIYAH SAID THERE IS APPARENT HARDENING OF
IRAQI POSITION ON KUWAIT ILLUSTRATED BY GOI OFFICIALS
STATING THAT THEIR HANDS ARE TIED BECAUSE IRAQI PEOPLE
CONSIDER KUWAIT PART OF IRAQ. HE SAID THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN'S
VISIT TO KUWAIT IS OFF FOR TIME BEING. GOI HAD ASKED
GOK POSITION ON EARLIER GOI DEMAND FOR BUBIYAN
AND WARBA ISLANDS AND STRIP OF MAINLAND TO INSURE
ACCESS TO UM QASR. ANSWER HAD COME BACK FROM KUWAIT IN
NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THAT NOT ONE INCH OF KUWAIT TERRITORY
WOULD BE GIVEN TO IRAQ. HOWEVER, KUWAIT WAS WILLING TO
CONSIDER LEASING OF WARBA. SADDAM HUSSEIN HAD LET IT
BE KNOWN THAT MORE TIME SHOULD PASS BEFORE HIS VISIT
TAKES PLACE.

4. ON MARCH 28 PUBLIC MEETING TOOK PLACE IN SUPPORT OF
GULF PEOPLE WHICH GULF DIPLOMATS ALSO FIND DISQUIETING.
MEETING BILLED AS "INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR SOLIDARITY
WITH STRUGGLE OF PEOPLE OF ARAB GULF AND ARAB PENINSULA".
IT WAS CONVENED BY SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF AAPSO AND IRAQI
NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL. SEC GEN OF NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL
AZIZ SHARIF, WHO IS COMMUNIST AND MINISTER OF STATE
WITHOUT PORTFOLIO, OPENED MEETING. MAIN IRAQI SPEAKER WAS
NAIM HADDAD, MEMBER OF BAATH REGIONAL LEADERSHIP, WHO SPOKE
IN CAPACITY AS MEMBER NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL. HE REVIEWED
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PAGE 03 BAGHDA 00190 010949Z

UK-US POLICY IN GULF AND CITED IRANIAN OCCUPATION OF
ISLANDS, IRANIAN MILITARY "INTERVENTION" IN OMAN, IRANIAN
PROVOCATIONS ON IRAQI BORDER, AND SAUDI CONSPIRACIES AGAINST
PDRY AS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS OF "IMPERIALIST"
CAMP LED BY US. HE SAID IRANIAN AND SAUDI REGIMES ARE MAIN
INSTRUMENTS OF THIS POLICY.

4. COMMENT: MARCH 28 MEETING IS MOST OVERTLY UNFRIENDLY

ACT TOWARD GULF STATES THAT GOI HAS SPONSORED FOR SOME TIME. COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS WILLING ACCOMPLICES. AMB MARAFIYAH IMPLIED THAT STRONG LINE BAHRAIN FORMIN MUBAREK TOOK WITH GOI HAD BEEN COORDINATED IN ADVANCE WITH OTHER GULF STATES. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO HAVE CONFIRMATION FROM GULF POSTS THAT INCREASED CONSULTATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE FOR PURPOSE OF PRESENTING UNITED FRONT TOWARD IRAQ.

6. IRAQ'S GULF POLICY MAY BE BECOMING MORE AGGRESSIVE AS WAY OF STRIKING OUT AT IRAN FOR IRANIAN ASSISTANCE TO KURDS WHICH BAATH REGIME BELIEVES IS PREVENTING SUCCESS OF ITS AUTONOMY PLAN. LOWRIE

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